

Message Text

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ACTION A-01

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NOFORN KINGSTON 2551

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, PINR, JM (MRS. CARTER)
SUBJECT: MRS. CARTER'S VISIT TO JAMAICA: BIO DATA ON KEY JAMAICANS

REFERENCE: KINGSTON 2513

1. REFTEL PROPOSED ISSUE EVENTS FOR MAY 31 IN KINGSTON, I.E. VISIT TO CENTRAL KINGSTON UPGRADING PROJECT (CKUP) AND TO JAMAICAN CULTURAL TRAINING CENTER. IT IS PROBABLE THAT MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT RALPH BROWN WILL BE KEY GOJ ESCORT AT FORMER ZLENT, WHILE MINISTER OF STATE FOR INFORMATION, CULTURE, BROADCASTING & FESTIVAL ARNOLD BERTRAM WILL BE KEY GOJ ESCORT AT SECOND EVENT. FOLLOWING ARE BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON BROWN AND BERTRAM.

2. RALPH BROWN, MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT. RALPH BROWN WAS BORN MAY 17, 1924 IN JAMAICA. HE ATTENDED ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN KINGSTON. HIS ONLY TERTIARY LEVEL EDUCATION WAS THE MONA REHABILITATION SCHOOL FOR EX-SERVICE-MEN -- ALSO IN KINGSTON. DURING WORLD WAR II, HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE.

3. A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY (PNP) BROWN WAS MAYOR OF THE KINGSTON-ST. ANDREW CORPORATION COUNCIL FROM 1974 TO DECEMBER, 1976 WHEN
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HE WAS ELECTED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM WEST CENTRAL KINGSTON. IN JANUARY 1977 HE BECAME MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

4. BROWN HAS A HUSKY BUT NOT HEAVY BUILD, USUALLY WEARS A MUSTACHE, AND IS A PLEASANT, OPEN PERSON ALTHOUGH HE OFTEN HAS A RATHER SLEEPY EXPRESSION ON

HIS FACE.

5. THOUGH GENERALLY FRIENDLY TO THE U.S., HE IS NOT OVERLY FAMILIAR WITH THE INTRICACIES OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS NOR WITH THE SUBSTANCE OF VARIOUS MULTI-LATERAL NORTH/SOUTH ISSUES. PERHAPS BECAUSE OF HIS NAIVETE IN THESE AREAS HE SOMETIMES TENDS TO SPOUT (USUALLY IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION) RATHER OUTLANDISH CRITICAL STATEMENTS REGARDING RESPONSIBILITY OF THE U.S. AND OF MULTI-NATIONAL CORPORATIONS FOR THE PROBLEMS OF THE THIRD WORLD IN GENERAL AND OF JAMAICA IN PARTICULAR.

6. AS MAYOR OF KINGSTON/ST. ANDREW, HE WAS POPULAR, REASONABLY EFFECTIVE AND ALWAYS ACCESSIBLE. IT IS TOO EARLY TO JUDGE HIS PERFORMANCE IN HIS NEW ROLE AS MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

7. ARNOLD TENNYSON BERTRAM, MINISTER OF STATE FOR INFORMATION, CULTURE, BROADCASTING AND FESTIVAL. ARNOLD T. BERTRAM WAS BORN IN BROWN'S TOWN, JAMAICA, ON SEPTEMBER 9, 1944. HE ATTENDED THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES, MONA CAMPUS, GRADUATING WITH A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN HISTORY IN 1969. DURING HIS COLLEGE YEARS, BERTRAM WAS AN OUTSPOKEN RADICAL; HE OFTEN DENOUNCED THE UNITED STATES AND ITS POLICIES IN JAMAICA AND THE CARIBBEAN. HE WAS ALSO A STAUNCH BLACK POWER ADVOCATE. BERTRAM HAS ALSO COMPLETED SOME GRADUATE WORK IN HISTORY AT U.W.I. HE MARRIED
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HIS WIFE, JEAN, IN AUGUST 1969. SHE IS AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER AT THE PRIORY SCHOOL IN KINGSTON, AND MORE MODERATE IN HER POLITICAL VIEWS. OCCASIONALLY, SHE EXERCISES INFLUENCE OVER BERTRAM.

8. BERTRAM WAS NAMED TO THE SENATE BY PRIME MINISTER MANLEY IN OCTOBER 1974, AND MADE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER THE SAME YEAR. IN DECEMBER 1976, BERTRAM WAS ELECTED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. IN JANUARY 1977, MANLEY APPOINTED BERTRAM MINISTER OF STATE FOR INFORMATION, CULTURE, BROADCASTING AND FESTIVAL AFFAIRS.

9. IN CONVERSATION BERTRAM COMES ACROSS AS A GENTLE AND THOUGHTFUL PERSON INTERESTED IN THE PROBLEMS AND VIEWS OF OTHERS. HOWEVER, HE ALSO -- UNTIL VERY RECENTLY -- HAS BEEN ONE OF THE THREE OR FOUR MOST INFLUENTIAL EXTREME RADICALS IN THE MANLEY GOVERNMENT. HE ALSO WAS ONE OF THOSE MOST IDEOLOGICALLY MOTIVATED TOWARD AND

IDENTIFIED WITH CUBA -- WHICH HE HAS VISITED FREQUENTLY.
IN THESE ROLES HE WAS ONE OF PM MANLEY'S CLOSEST POLITICAL
AND IDEOLOGICAL ADVISERS.

10. THROUGHOUT 1976 HE PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN THE ANTI-USG
(ESPECIALLY CIA) CAMPAIGN WHICH CHARACTERIZED OUR BILATERAL
RELATIONSHIPS FOR MOST
OF THAT YEAR. HE WAS, FOR INSTANCE,
INTIMATELY INVOLVED IN THE VISIT OF CIA DEFECTOR PHILLIP
AGEE WHO LEVELED A WIDE RANGE OF "DESTABILIZATION" CHARGES
AGAINST THE CIA AND THIS EMBASSY IN SEPTEMBER OF LAST YEAR.

11. HOWEVER, IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH OF THIS YEAR HE
BECAME DISILLUSIONED WITH THE THUGGERY OF SOME OF HIS
RADICAL COLLEAGUES, AND WITH THE FAILURE OF STILL OTHER
RADICALS TO COME UP WITH VIABLE SOLUTIONS TO JAMAICA'S
ECONOMIC CRISIS. IN LATE MARCH AT A MAJOR CONFERENCE
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OF THE PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY. HE WENT OVER TO THE
MODERATE FACTION AND GAVE THAT GROUP HIS ACTIVE SUPPORT
IN THE SHIFT TOWARD MORE TRADITIONAL APPROACHES TO
JAMAICA'S SOCIO/POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. THIS
INCLUDED HIS ACCEPTANCE OF THE NEED TO IMPROVE RELATION-
SHIPS WITH THE U.S. -- IF ONLY TO ASSURE INCREASED U.S.
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE.

12. WHETHER THIS STARTLING SHIFT IN ATTITUDES AND OF HIS
POSITION ON THE JAMAICAN POLITICAL SPECTRUM REMAINS
PERMANENT IS DOUBTFUL. BUT IT APPEARS QUITE GENUINE
FOR THE MOMENT.
DORRANCE

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